



M.O.E. Policy Manual

POLICY TITLE USE OF AFTER-MARKET AUTOMOTIVE CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

NO.
01-02-01

Legislative Authority

Environmental Protection Act, Section 21
Regulation 311

Statement of Principles

The current interpretation of Section 21(3) of the Environmental Protection Act necessitates the replacement of a malfunctioning catalytic converter with a catalytic converter of exactly the same type.

A strict enforcement of this interpretation can result in unnecessarily high replacement cost for a catalytic converter that may be installed on an older vehicle whose value and remaining useful life does not warrant the installation of a converter costing up to \$500.

1.0 Purpose

This policy sets out the conditions under which it is permissible for less expensive "after-market" catalytic converters to be installed on vehicles in place of "original equipment" converters.

2.0 Objective

The objective of this policy is to encourage the replacement of catalytic converters which are missing or no longer meeting the emission requirements specified in Regulation 311.

Point of Contact Director, Air Resources Branch

Effective Date

December 11, 1987

3.0 Scope

This policy applies in all circumstances where catalytic converters on light duty vehicles require replacement.

4.0 Converter replacement requirements

4.1 Conditions where "original equipment" grade converters must be used

If a catalytic converter malfunctions before the vehicle attains both 80,000 kilometres and five years from the date of original licence issuance, the converter must be replaced with a catalytic converter identical to that originally installed on the vehicle by the manufacturer.

4.2 Conditions where "after-market" grade converters may be used

If a catalytic converter malfunctions after the vehicle attains both 80,000 kilometres and five years from the date of original licence issuance, an "after-market" converter, approved by the Ministry of the Environment, may be installed on a motor vehicle of the appropriate type or class in place of the malfunctioning catalytic converter.

5.0 Responsibilities

5.1 MOE

- (a) Where a manufacturer of after-market catalytic converters can show that its product is capable of reducing the level of pollution emitted from the tailpipe of a type or class of light duty motor vehicle, by a prescribed amount for a period of at least two years or a distance of at least 40,000 kilometres, such catalytic converter may be sold in Ontario, and installed and used on light duty motor vehicles of the appropriate type or class in accordance with section 4.2. The prescribed reductions shall be:

Carbon monoxide 70%
Hydrocarbons 70%
Nitrogen oxides 30% (where the original converter was a three way converter)

These reductions are not intended to replace the requirements of Regulation 311 which remain in effect.

- (b) Where a manufacturer of after-market catalytic converters has obtained a set of identifying code letters from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the manufacturer shall stamp on or affix to the shell of the catalytic converter the designated code letters. An after-market catalytic converter shall not be sold in Ontario unless it has the manufacturer's identification code on the shell, if available.
- (c) Where an after-market catalytic converter is sold, installed and used in accordance with section 4.2 such sale, installation and use shall not be deemed to be a contravention of the provisions of section 21(3) of the Environmental Protection Act.
- (d) This policy statement does not give approval for the sale, installation or use of reconditioned or re-manufactured catalytic converters.

5.2 Manufacturer of
after market
catalytic
converters

- (a) A manufacturer or distributor shall only sell, or offer for sale, an after-market catalytic converter in Ontario after he has satisfactorily supplied the Ministry of the Environment with the following data:
 - (i) A list of applicable vehicles on which each after-market catalytic converter can be installed
 - (ii) Test results proving that the product is capable of controlling the pollutants, carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons (and nitrogen oxides, where applicable) to the required level for at least two years or 40,000 kilometres, and, where available.

- (iii) A copy of the letter from the U.S. EPA, giving the manufacturer's identification code letters.
- (b) A manufacturer or distributor shall stamp on, or affix to, the shell of each catalytic converter that he wishes to offer for sale in Ontario, the relevant U.S. EPA identification code, if available, or otherwise an identification code issued by the Ministry.
- (c) The identification code shall be located on the bottom surface of the catalytic converter shell so as to be easily legible when the catalytic converter has been installed on a vehicle.
- (d) A manufacturer or distributor shall not sell, or offer for sale, an after-market catalytic converter in Ontario until the Ministry of the Environment has issued a letter to the manufacturer or distributor stating that the after-market catalytic converter meets the relevant conditions set out in this policy statement.